adoption of alternative modes of disputes resolution, such as arbitration and conciliation.

The Government has also requested the Chief Justices of the High Courts to review the position of old criminal and some old civil cases as well pending in the High Courts and consider the need of recommending appointment of some *ad-hoc* Judges for clearing of the pendency of such cases.

Disposal of rape cases

3085. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are actively considering to issue necessary instrucions to the courts in the country to take a quick decision about rape cases as the one such case at Alwar (Rajasthan) was finalized only in 9 (nine) working days;

(b) if so, whether Union Government are considering to amend the law in this regard and if so, when; and

(c) how far such immediate decision shall avoid the rape cases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Instructions to any court in the country on the manner how and the time in which to dispose cases before it can only be issued by the Superior Courts, namely the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

In so far as expeditious disposal of rape cases are concerned, the relevant recommendation of the Law Commission made in its 172nd Report on Review of Rape Laws has been taken up by Government for taking a final view. It is expected that expeditious disposal of cases related to the offence of rape shall act as an effective deterrent.

Amendments in Hindu Marriage Act

†3086. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of amendments made till date in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has given some suggestions for making amendments in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955;and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.